

For Immediate Release

City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way
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Two Farmers Markets in Renton Opening in June

"Local Farmers, Fresh Food, Friendly People":

Farmers Market returns to Valley Medical Center,

Downtown Renton Farmers Market Celebrates its Eleventh Season at the Piazza

RENTON, WA—Downtown Renton and the Valley Medical Center campus will come alive with the tastes of summer when fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables and a wide variety of other food vendors are available through two farmers markets in Renton.

Renton Mayor Denis Law will officially ring the bell at the Renton Farmers Market at the Piazza on **Tuesday, June 5, at 2:45 pm** to kick off the market season in Renton. The Mayor or a member of the Renton City Council will help kick off the second year of the Farmers Market at Valley Medical Center on **Sunday, June 10, at 11:45 am**.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating the eleventh season downtown and excited to be returning for a second year at Valley Medical Center," said Renton Mayor Denis Law. "We couldn't support the successful farmers market program in Renton without the generosity of private contributors, volunteers and vendors who make the farmers markets in Renton so spectacular."

As a proven economic driver for Renton, Renton Farmers Market vendors' gross sales average over \$20,000 each week. According to annual surveys, approximately 60% of the visitors to the Renton Farmers Market visit other downtown Renton businesses before or after their trips to the market

"We're really excited about the opportunities available for customers at the markets, from healthy food choices to family entertainment at both markets and wellness information at the Farmers Market at Valley Medical Center. It's going to be a great market season!" said Valria Lopez, the city's Farmers Market Coordinator.

The Renton Farmers Market at the Piazza is open every Tuesday from June 5 through September 25, 3:00 to 7:00 pm, at the Piazza park, located at South 3rd Street & Burnett Avenue South and adjacent to the Renton Transit Center. Products sold by nearly 60 vendors will include cheese, honey and salmon, in addition to fresh cut flowers, baked goods, herbs and a bounty of farm fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. The Renton Farmers

Market at the Piazza will also feature chef demonstrations, kids' activities, live entertainment, tips from Master Gardeners, free parking (for up to two hours) and a pedestrian-friendly environment.

The Renton Farmers Market at the Piazza is coordinated by the City of Renton with the generous support of Piazza Renton volunteers and additional community volunteers. Several local businesses also generously contribute financial support for the Market: Seattle Cancer Treatment & Wellness Center is the Entertainment Sponsor; Wizards of the Coast is the Kid's Fun Patch Sponsor; Merrill Gardens at Renton Centre is the Master Gardener Clinic Sponsor; Renton Technical College is the Community Booth Sponsor; and Deano's Bistro is the Chef Demonstrations Sponsor. Additionally, several businesses have made smaller contributions to the "Friends of the Renton Farmers Market" fund. All contributions will be invested directly in to the programming and promotion of the Renton Farmers Market.

"The Renton Farmers Market is the place where you can buy locally grown goods, promote healthy living and the environment and support local farmers, while also helping to energize our downtown," said Linda Middlebrooks, President of Piazza Renton, whose volunteers generously help staff the market.

Farmers Market at Valley Medical Center, located off Talbot Road in the parking lot adjacent to the Professional Center at 4011 Talbot Road South, will be held on Sundays from June 10 through September 16, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, with plenty of free parking including the VMC parking garage. Thirty vendors will have their specialties for sale—flowers, jams, mustards, produce, breads, baked goods, salmon and more. The market will also feature live music and a focus on community health and wellness at the Valley Medical Center Wellness Booth.

"The market is consistent with our commitment to a healthy community through providing world-class health care and increased access to fresh, locally grown food," said Paul Hayes, RN, Executive Vice President, Valley Medical Center. "Bringing a farmers market to the hospital campus provides our customers, neighbors and staff access to fresh, locally grown food, and also provides access to the health information and services available at Valley to the broader community. This partnership with the City of Renton further strengthens our collaboration and commitment to the community," Hayes said.

About Farmers Market program in Renton:

The Renton Farmers Market and the Farmers Market at Valley Medical Center are coordinated by the City of Renton with the generous support of volunteers. The Renton Chamber of Commerce/Renton Visitors Connection provides marketing support.

Those interested may sign up for weekly emails with recipes, shopping guides, and events at: <http://www.rentonfarmersmarket.com>. The Renton Farmers Market program is also connected with the community through Facebook and Twitter.

For more information about both markets, including sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, call 425-430-7214 or visit www.rentonwa.gov/farmersmarket/.

